



INTERVIEW WITH AN IAMSLIC LIBRARIAN: Anne Moser
SHARING EXPERIENCES & TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE



Your studies: Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Art History from Colby College (Waterville, Maine USA) in May 1985. Master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin Madison (Madison, Wisconsin USA) in December 1987.

Your area of expertise: Special librarianship, freshwater science, the Great Lakes, education and outreach to children ages three through nine.

Why/When did you choose the Librarianship career? After I graduated from Colby College, I was really not sure what I wanted to do for work or for a career. At the time, I was living in London with some friends from college, selling shoes in a shop in Convent Garden. A friend mentioned she was considering going to library school and that sounded good to me. I was always a reader and had spent a ton of time in libraries as a youth but I didn't really appreciate what I was getting into. As I look back on it now, I am so incredibly blessed to have stumbled into a career that I love and that I enjoy so much.

Tell us an experience related to your profession: I like to tell this story because it illustrates how fun it is being a special librarian where you get to learn something new every day. I was working in a library at an environmental consulting firm in Madison, Wisconsin right after I graduated from library school. I took this job because it is very difficult to find professional library positions in a town where there are so many recent qualified graduates of a library school. On my second or third day in the position, my supervisor had stepped out of the library and in walked a senior engineer looking for "that orange book on cupolas." I was dumbfounded – since I had studied art history, the only cupolas I knew about were architectural ones. And I was very surprised to hear the patron asking for a book by color. This was not something we learned to do in school. But as we all know, that is a very typical question posed to librarians. I somehow found the orange book about air pollution but not without some butterflies in my belly and some pretty roundabout clarifying questions to the patron.

What do you enjoy doing most in your work place? I have a bit of an unusual job in a library because in addition to having a collection, I provide education and outreach about water and the Great Lakes to children ages three through nine. Working with children in that age group is so rewarding. I often go and visit public libraries around the state and offer a library story time that integrates literacy and science. The children are wonderful – they are natural scientists and very curious and enthusiastic. I find myself often learning things from them too.

What do you dislike? There isn't too much I dislike but because I am basically a solo librarian, I often feel pulled in many directions and don't have time to do everything I want to do in the short amount of time I have.

What does it mean for you to belong to an association such as IAMSLIC ? I absolutely LOVE IAMSLIC! I have always participated in professional associations during my career and this group is my favorite. The conferences I have attended have been educational and inspiring and each and every time I return home I feel so motivated. I have loved meeting all the great librarians that work around the world.

Your favourite book or author is: Oh gosh, I can't answer that question! Picking a favorite book or author is like choosing which one of your children do you love best. Sorry!

What is your great passion? I have two passions right now – my family is one (husband Mike and two daughters, Colleen and Marla) and being outdoors (or in nature) – camping, hiking, walking, skiing, anything that gets me in the fresh air.

Where can we learn more about you and your professional and/or social activities? My library has a website that we are upgrading right now – it's very old and looks it. It should be completed in the Fall of 2015. We also have a Facebook page and twitter account that we update pretty frequently.

<http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary/>
<https://www.facebook.com/WiscWaterLib?ref=nf>
<https://twitter.com/WiscWaterLib>

Thanks for interviewing me!

Anne
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